(a) the number of persons died in each State due to starvation during the year 2001-02 and the six months from April 1st, 2002; and

(b) what assistance was given to the families of those who have died due to starvation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No State Government has reported such deaths during the year 2001-02 and in the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

Representation of PIOs in the Rajya Sabha

†3020. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to grant representation in the Rajya Sabha to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) staying abroad and who are still citizens of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Threat from Pakistani anti-ballistic missile system

3021. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is likely to acquire anti-ballistic missile system worth 1.5 billion dollars;

(b) if so, to what extent this is likely to affect India's defence preparedness; and

(c) what steps have been taken to face the challenge?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.